Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/Aero Club of India (ACI). Besides, DGCA has approved a total of 26 flying training institutes (including 1GRUA) in the country for imparting Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) training.

(c) Recruitment, training etc. of cabin crew is done by the respective airlines as per their requirement.

Construction of airport in Sikkim

306. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project for the construction of airport in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by Government to provide air-services to and from Gangtok, Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed project report has been prepared by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and submitted to State Government of Sikkim for construction of a Greenfield airport at Pakyong, 33 km South West of Gangtok. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 320 crores.

(c) Government have laid down Route Dispersal Gufdelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. Subject to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North Eastern region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (Category-II routes) at least 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (Category-I routes). Further, at least 10% of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category-II routes, is required to be deployed for connectivity exclusively within these regions.

Gangtok, Sikkim is being air-serviced from Bagdogra Airport (West Bengal) which is at a distance of about 125 km. Pawan Hans is providing daily helicopter services between Bagdogra and Gangtok.

Shortage of air traffic controllers

307. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing shortage of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to bridge this gap?